FLOWER COMICS
少コミフラワーコミックス

天は赤い河のほとり 15

篠原千絵
Chie Shinohara

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篠原千絵

小学館
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少コミ
フラワーコミックス

●作品紹介

★自らの意志でユーリはカイルのもとに残る。だがナキア皇太后の策で、後宮に正妃候補たちが多数集められていた。身分の高い姫が正妃につくほうが、カイルのためになると思うユーリ。しかし自分のそばが、彼が一番くつろいでいることを知る。そんなユーリを何者かが狙い…。大型歴史ロマン第15巻!!

●篠原千絵のFC

天は赤い河のほとり ①〜㉔
蒼の封印 全11巻
海の闇、月の影 全18巻
闇のパープル・アイ 全12巻
陵子の心霊事件簿 全4巻

●篠原千絵傑作集
①訪問者は真夜中に…
②目撃者にさようなら
③なにかが闇で見ている
④3人目が消えた

●フラワーコミックススペシャル
逃亡急行（エスケープエクスプレス）

●小学館文庫
蒼の封印 全7巻
海の闇、月の影 全11巻
闇のパープル・アイ 全7巻
そして5回の鈴が鳴る
凍った夏の日
陵子の心霊事件簿 全2巻

●篠原千絵イラスト集
イシュタル
（天は赤い河のほとり 複製原画集）
海の闇、月の影
闇のパープル・アイ

少女の恋のバイブル
少女コミック
毎月5日・20日発売！

作者からのメッセージ

最近興味をもっているのはトンボ玉。トンボ玉とは色や模様のついたガラス玉で、まあカイルのつけているネックレスなどがそうだと言えばわかりやすいかな。先日手に入れたものは、16世紀頃のオランダの玉をローマン・ビーズで繋いだものだそうだ。とても気にいっているけど、もったいなくてまだつけて外出していない。

天は赤い河のほとり
15
篠原千絵

FLOWER COMICS

少コミ
フラワー
コミックス

天は赤い河のほとり15
篠原千絵
小学館

＊少コミフラワーコミックス＊

Red River 15

篠原千絵

The story thus far~

• YURI, A REGULAR JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT, WAS PULLED INTO A PUDDLE OF WATER ONE DAY.

• THE NEXT THING SHE KNEW, SHE WAS ALREADY IN THE ANCIENT HITTITE EMPIRE. SHE WAS BROUGHT ACROSS AS A SACRIFICE FOR QUEEN NAKIA'S PLOT. FORTUNATELY, PRINCE KAIL RESCUED HER JUST IN TIME AND LET HER TAKE REFUGE IN HIS PALACE AS HIS "CONCUBINE."

• YURI WANTS TO GO BACK TO HER HOME IN THE 20TH CENTURY BUT HAS ALWAYS BEEN PREVENTED FROM DOING SO BY THE QUEEN, WHOSE MALICIOUS ACTIONS ENDED UP COSTING THE LIVES OF MANY WHO WERE CLOSE TO YURI.

LEADING CHARACTERS

Kail

THE PRINCE OF THE HITTITE EMPIRE. HE ALSO BEARS THE TITLE OF A HIGH PRIEST.

Yuri

SHE WAS A NORMAL MIDDLE SCHOOL 3RD YEAR BUT SHE WAS FORCED TO COME TO ANCIENT TURKEY (THE HITTITE EMPIRE).

Queen Nakia

SHE WISHES TO SACRIFICE YURI SO THAT HER HER SON MAY BECOME THE EMPEROR. SHE ALSO BEARS THE TITLE OF A HIGH PRIESTESS

- AT LAST KAIL HAS ASSUMED THE THRONE AS THE KING OF HITTITE. YET QUEEN NAKIA, WHO HAS BECOME THE QUEEN DOWAGER, STILL DOESN'T GIVE UP ON TAKING YURI'S LIFE. SHE PLANNED TO SEPARATE KAIL AND YURI BY SETTING OUT A TWO-SIDED WAR ON THE HITTITE EMPIRE.

- AFTER KAIL AND YURI LED THE ARMY AND DEFEATED THE DUAL THREATS, YURI DECIDES TO STAY WITH KAIL AT THE HITTITE CAPITOL.

- KAIL DETERMINES TO MAKE YURI HIS QUEEN. BUT QUEEN NAKIA ARRANGED TO BRING A NUMBER OF WOMEN INTO THE PALACE, FORCING KAIL TO PICK HIS QUEEN AND CONCUBINES FROM AMONG THEIR NUMBER.

- DRIVEN BY ENVY, THE WOMEN START TO PICK ON YURI....

AAAAAAAHHH!!

SIS...

turn

turn

HOW COULD THE CLASP GET LOOSE!? DIDN'T YOU TWO CHECK IT WHILE YOU WERE PREPARING HER DRESS!?

heh

NO WAY...

heh

heh

Part 1

ベッドの下

!?

a rat

B

AHH!!

ドカッ

YOUR HIGHNESS!!

TAKING OFF YOUR CLOTHES NOW IS A BIT TOO SOON.

LET'S WAIT UNTIL WE ARE ALONE FIRST

YOUR..

YOUR HIGHNESS!?

YOUR HIGHNESS

UMM.. MY SEAT IS OVER THERE...

!?

YOUR HIGHNESS!?

KAIL!?

THIS IS THE KING'S SEAT!?

YOUR HIGHNESS,

THE PARTY TONIGHT IS FOR YOU! TO CHOOSE YOUR QUEEN.

LETTING THAT LOW CLASS WOMAN SIT ON YOUR CHAIR LIKE THAT IS RUDE TO THE LADIES AND PRINCESSES WHO ARE PRESENTED HERE ..

EH!?

STEP-MOTHER,

THE RUMOR THAT I AM INFATUATED BY THIS WOMAN IS ALREADY KNOWN TO ALL THE LADIES HERE.

IF ANYONE WANTS TO ENTER MY SERAGLIO,

SHE HAS TO BE ABLE TO ACCEPT THIS SORT OF THING.

KAIL...!

DON'T MIND US OVER HERE.

PLEASE CONTINUE WITH THE PARTY.

KAIL!!

GRAB

KEEPING YURI AT THE DEEP END OF THE SERAGLIO AND PROTECTING HER WITH THESE ARMS SO THAT SHE WOULD NOT ENCOUNTER ANY PROBLEMS IS EASY.

LOVELY YURI...

BUT DOING SO WOULD HINDER BOTH THE COUNTRY AND ME.

AND THAT'S NOT GOOD FOR YURI EITHER.

IT CANNOT CONTINUE ON LIKE THIS!!

PLEASE FORGIVE US!

THE DRESS WAS OUR FAULT.

THIS KIND OF STUFF WAS UNEXPECTED!

WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT THOSE PRINCESSES WOULD DO SOMETHING CRAZY LIKE THIS!

BUT ILBANI SIR,

THERE IS NO QUESTION ABOUT THAT.

THE THREAD WAS CUT THIS MUCH, YET NONE OF YOU HAD NOTICED. THIS MEANS THAT YOU WEREN'T ATTENTIVE ENOUGH.

YURI...

THAT'S ENOUGH ALREADY.

THEY WERE JUST PLAYING AROUND, AND I WASN'T HURT EITHER.

YOUR HIGHNESS, THE FESTIVITY IS NOT OVER YET, SHOULDN'T YOU RETURN TO THE PARTY?

I AM GOING GO CHANGE MY DRESS TOO.

...LATER.

THEN I WILL BE BACK...

Bang
PRINCESS YURI. .
ACTUALLY,
IT WOULDN'T BE STRANGE IF THE KING HAS 100-200 CONCUBINES, RIGHT?
PRINCESS YURI!
I CAN TOLERATE THOSE KINDS OF THINGS.
WHAT I CAN'T TOLERATE IS THE FACT THAT I CANNOT HELP HIS HIGHNESS OUT AT ALL.
.. PRINCESS YURI
ARE YOU UPSET ABOUT WHAT THOSE PRINCESSES DID?
PRINCESS YURI, IF YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT THOSE PRINCESSES, THERE'S NO WAY THAT HIS HIGHNESS WOULD LIKE ANY OF THEM.

DAY AFTER DAY THAT I LIVE INSIDE THIS PALACE, I ALWAYS HAVE HIS HIGHNESS TO PROTECT ME SO MUCH THAT I'VE BECOME MERELY A HINDRANCE.

FOR THE KING OF A COUNTRY, A QUEEN WHO CAN PROVIDE SUPPORTS IN VARIOUS ASPECTS IS A NECESSITY NO MATTER IF THE KING LOVES HER OR NOT.

EVEN I UNDERSTAND THAT.

PRINCESS YURI....

YET IN TIMES OF PEACE, THE GODDESS OF WAR CANNOT HELP OUT WITH ANYTHING.

knock
knock

MAY I COME IN?

ISHTAR,

PRINCESS GUIZEL

ISHTAR, I'M SORRY FOR BOTHERING YOU THIS LATE.

PLEASE CONTINUE ON WITH YOUR CHANGING.

UMM... PRINCESS GUIZEL

PRINCESS?

YOU CAME TO VISIT BECAUSE YOU WERE WORRIED ABOUT ME?

UMM.

PLEASE DON'T PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT THOSE OBNOXIOUS PRINCESSES DID.

PRINCESS...

MAY I PLEASE ASK YOU SOMETHING?

NO..

UMM...

I DON'T KNOW IF I'M TOO FORWARD BUT..

WERE YOU EVER RESENTED BY THE OTHER PRINCESSES?

IN THE PAST WHEN HIS HIGHNESS USED TO GO VISIT YOU,

AA! BUT ISHTAR IS DIFFERENT THOUGH.

YOU ARE SPECIAL TO HIS HIGHNESS.

I'M GOING TO GO CHANGE NOW

THANK YOU.

PLEASE FORGIVE ME .

EVEN THOUGH YOU HAVE ALREADY UNDERSTOOD HOW THINGS ARE, IT'S STILL PAINFUL TO HAVE OTHERS BE JEALOUS OF YOU.

IF SO..

UMM..

ABOUT THAT...

I WASN'T LEFT TO LIVE PEACEFULLY EITHER.

BUT HIS HIGHNESS DIDN'T BELONG SOLELY TO ME TO BEGIN WITH.

...DOESN'T BELONG SOLELY TO ME

HE...

FOR EXAMPLE, AT NIGHT WHEN YOU LEAVE HIS HIGHNESS'S ROOM TO GO BACK TO YOUR OWN ROOM...

I SHOULDN'T SAY THIS,

BUT YOU HAVE TO BE CAREFUL NOT TO LET THOSE OTHER PRINCESSES NOTICE.

BUT, PRINCESS,

ISHTAR,

HIS HIGHNESS SLEEPS NEXT TO YOU?

FWAP

WHEN HIS HIGHNESS IS SLEEPING,

HE WON'T LET GO OF ME AT ALL AND I END UP NOT BEING ABLE TO LEAVE UNTIL MORNING.

ISHTAR,

IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN IT'S INEVITABLE THAT WOMEN ALL OVER THE COUNTRY WOULD BE JEALOUS OF YOU.

KAIL HAS A HABIT OF...

EMBRACING THE OTHER PERSON UNTIL HE FALLS ASLEEP

YES....

AS YOU MIGHT HAVE ALREADY KNOWN...

THERE WERE MANY WOMEN WHO HAD RECEIVED LOVE FROM HIS HIGHNESS,

BUT NO ONE, INCLUDING ME

HAS EVER GOTTEN TO SEE HIS HIGHNESS'S SLEEPING FACE.

NO ONE...

KNOWS HIS HIGHNESS'S SLEEPING FACE.

ALTHOUGH HIS HIGHNESS CAME TO VISIT ME,

HE NEVER STAYED OVERNIGHT EVEN ONCE.

AND HE WOULD ALWAYS PUT HIS SWORD WITHIN HIS REACH.

EVEN WHILE HIS HIGHNESS PUT US INTO A DAZE WITH PLEASURE,

HE STILL REFUSED TO FALL ASLEEP.

...HAS FOUND A PLACE WHERE HE CAN FULLY BE AT EASE.

AT LAST HIS HIGHNESS...

KAI...

...IS AT EASE WHEN HE'S WITH ME?

AT THE TIME HIS HIGHNESS WAS STILL NOT THE CROWN PRINCE.

BUT THE AWARENESS THAT HE INHERITED THE IMPERIAL LINE MADE HIM CONSTANTLY ON GUARD EVEN WHILE HE RESTED.

...IS ME?

THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS HIS LONG LASHES AND HIS EVEN BREATHS..

THE ONLY PERSON WHO HE HAS EMBRACED IN HIS SLEEP...

. IS ME?

IT CAN'T BE DONE?

HAVING YURI HOLD THE CONTROL OVER THE SERAGLIO IS IMPOSSIBLE?

I SHOULD BE CONTENT WITH THAT, RIGHT?

YURI HAS DONE WELL BEYOND EXPECTATION AS THE GODDESS OF WAR.

YOUR HIGHNESS

AM I...

YOUR HIGHNESS...

FORCING YURI TO DO SOMETHING IMPOSSIBLE?

EVERYTHING MUST BE PERFECT. ♡

NOW...

HIS HIGHNESS IS COMING HERE TONIGHT

IF YOU WISH SO...

HUH?

was about to cover the bed with some rose petals

I'll get too embarrassed if someone else does it

AAH, WAIT... I CAN MAKE THE BED MYSELF!!

I'LL GO CHECK THE BED FIRST.

SEE, PRINCESS YURI

HIS HIGHNESS LOVES PRINCESS YURI THE MOST.

IS THAT REALLY TRUE?

KAIL IS AT EASE WHEN HE'S WITH ME?

IF THAT'S TRUE, I WILL BE VERY HAPPY.

rustle

rustle

WHAT IS THAT!?

THERE'S SOMETHING UNDER THE BLANKET?

Ouch!
Prick
!?
rustle

SCORPIONS?!

rustle

rustle

PRINCESS YURI,

DID YOU JUST CALL US A MOMENT AGO?

creeek

rustle

SCORPIONS!?

WHY ARE THERE SCORPIONS ON THE BED!?

RUI, SHA..A..

SCORPIONS!?

SISTER!! SISTER!!

PRINCESS YURI, THIS KIND OF SCORPION DOESN'T HAVE STRONG VENOM.

WHAT A RELIEF!

WUP

WUP

WUP

A LITTLE SORE, A LITTLE SWELLING FOR 2-3 DAYS, THEN YOU'LL BE GOOD AS NEW

PLEASE LET ME SEE. YOU WERE STUNG, WEREN'T YOU!!?

PRINCESS YURI!

I'LL GO TO THE MEDICAL CENTER TO GET SOME MEDICINAL HERBS.

THIS MUST BE THE WORK OF THOSE PRINCESSES.

THAT'S A RELIEF.

THE WORK OF...

THOSE PRINCESSES....

IF IT WAS THE QUEEN DOWAGER, SHE WOULD HAVE ALREADY USED SCORPIONS WITH DEADLY VENOM BY NOW

Let me give you first-aid for now

THE WORK OF THOSE PRINCESSES?

DON'T YOU THINK IT COULD HAVE BEEN THE QUEEN DOWAGER?

They are really childish

BUT FOR THOSE PRINCESSES, THEIR METHODS FOR THIS KIND OF STUFF WILL GRADUALLY ESCALATE.

BUT THIS ROOM...

HIS HIGHNESS ALSO COMES TO VISIT.

I CAN TOLERATE THEM HARASSING ME.

THIS SORT OF THING...

Elend

PRINCESS YURI!!

....

RUI?

WHAT'S WRONG?

YOUR HIGHNESS!!

WHAT!?

I AM ON THE WAY TO GET SOME MEDICINE, SO PLEASE EXCUSE ME.

BUT THE WOUND WASN'T VERY SERIOUS...

SOMEONE RELEASED SCORPIONS ALL OVER PRINCESS YUR.'S BED,

AND PRINCESS YURI WAS STUNG ON THE FINGER, SIR.

RELEASING SCORPIONS ON THE BED L KE THIS IS GETTING TOO VICIOUS!!

ISHTAR WAS STUNG BY SCORPIONS!!

YURI!!

I CAN'T LET IT GO ON LIKE THIS.

BANG

YOUR HIGH-NESS!

HADI

YURI

IS YURI OKAY!?

GETTING YURI AS MY QUEEN MIGHT TAKE A BIT LONGER,

BUT I HAVE TO GIVE THOSE WOMEN SOME WARNINGS.

PLEASE LET PRINCESS YURI TAKE CARE OF IT.

YOUR HIGH-NESS, PLEASE DON'T DO THAT YET!

ALTHOUGH GENEROSITY IS ONE OF PRINCESS YURI'S GOOD POINTS,

IN THIS CASE IT WOULD ALSO HOLD HER AS BEING WEAK.

HADI, IF WE LET THOSE PRINCESSES DO WHATEVER THEY WANT ANYMORE THAN THIS, PRINCESS YURI WOULD BE REALLY MISERABLE.

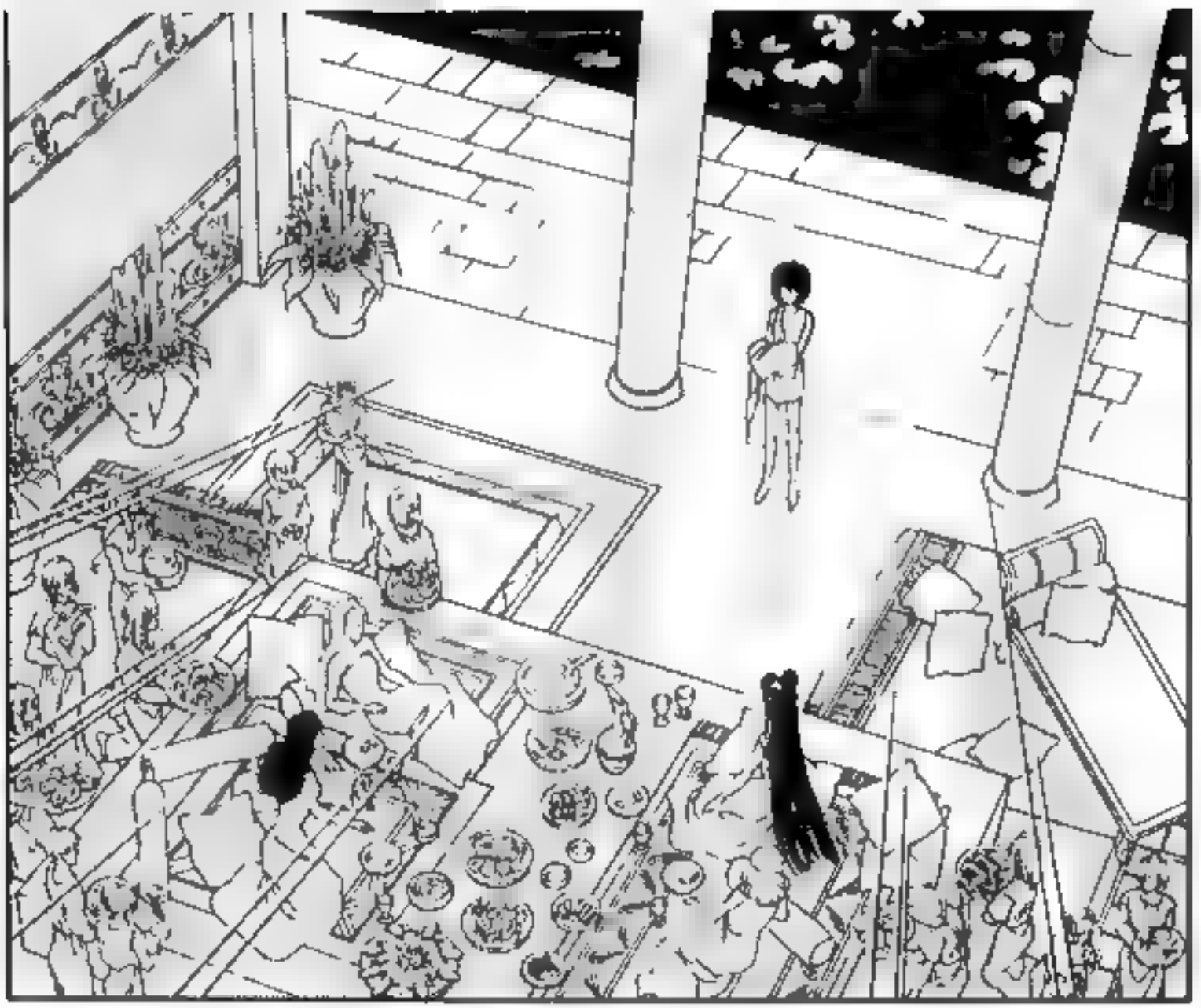
IT'S NOT THAT PRINCESS YURI IS GENEROUS.

!!

PRINCESSES,

WHO WAS IT THAT GIVE ME SCORPIONS!?

PRINCESS YURI ALSO POSSESSES A STRONG DESIRE WHICH SURPASSES THOSE PRINCESSES' DESIRE FOR POWER.


AS I THOUGHT, PEOPLE WHO CAME FROM HILLS AND WOODS CAN WITHSTAND VENOM OF THAT LEVEL JUST FINE
OH MY, YOU STILL SEEM HEALTHY THOUGH.
PRINCESS AKSAM.
IT WAS YOU,
SO...

AAAAAH!!

I'M RETURNING THESE TO YOU.

WHA...WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YOU INSOLENT GIRL !!?

STOP ACTING SO IMMATURE!!!

HEY... I HEARD THAT ISHTAR WAS STUNG BY A SCORPION.

WHAT!?

HOW IS HER CONDITION NOW!?

MY MOM IS GOOD AT MAKING MEDICINE.

I'LL GO GET IT!

WAIT!! THERE ARE ALSO MEDICINAL PLANTS AT THE PALACE!!

GASP

GASP

TH..TH.. TH. THEY ARE ALREADY DEAD,

SO WHAT ELSE DO YOU WANT!?

DON'T WORRY, PRINCESS.

THOSE SCORPIONS ARE ALREADY DEAD

I AM AN ARISTOCRAT. KNOW YOUR LIMIT!!

!!

THEN HOW ABOUT WHAT YOU JUST DID!?

THE KING ALSO VISITS MY ROOM.

RIGHT!?

YOU...

WHAT RIGHT DO YOU HAVE TO TEACH ME...?

I WANT TO KEEP IT THAT WAY.

IF... KAIL FEELS AT EASE WHEN HE'S WITH ME.

I DON'T HAVE ANY PEDIGREE, BUT...

IF THERE'S SOMETHING I CAN GIVE TO KAIL...

IF, BY CHANCE THINGS WENT WRONG, HIS HIGHNESS COULD HAVE BEEN STUNG.

YOU ARE NOT A CHILD ANYMORE, SO STOP DOING SOMETHING SO IMMATURE.

TAKING CARE OF THE KING IS THE DUTY OF EVERYONE WHO LIVES IN THE SERAGLIO.

IF YOU DON'T EVEN UNDERSTAND THAT-

I WILL PROTECT IT, NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES!!

THEN GET OUT AND LEAVE!!

WHAT PRINCESS YURI WANTS...

AND GIVES THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE IS YOU, YOUR HIGHNESS.

THAT FEELING IS GREATER THAN THE WISHES OF ALL THOSE PRINCESSES COMBINED.

PRINCESS YURI IS REALLY AMAZING

HMM...

BEING ABLE TO MAKE ALL THOSE PRINCESSES SHUT UP MEANS THAT

THAT'S A GIVEN.

SINCE THEIR ABILITIES ARE VASTLY DIFFERENT.

THE LIONESS WAS SLEEPING, YET THEY STILL HAD TO WAKE HER UP.

PRINCESS ADDASHARRAT

THEY ARE ALL REALLY FOOLISH..

HUH?

MAYBE

DUE TO HER TRUE NATURE, THE HARASSMENTS OF THOSE WOMEN IN THE SERAGLIO WERE JUST SMALL NUISANCES LIKE FLIES FLOCKING AT THE LION'S TAIL.

ISHTAR IS LIKE A SLEEPING LION.

ON THE SURFACE, SHE MAY NOT SEEM LIKE ONE, SO THERE AREN'T MANY PEOPLE WHO HAVE NOTICED.

WHAT DID YOU SAY!? ISHTAR!?

THOSE WHO HAVE GROWN UP WITHIN THE PALACE'S WALLS KNOW NOTHING OF THE OUTSIDE WORLD,

...YET THEY DARE PROVOK-ING HER. THEY REALLY DON'T KNOW THEIR PLACE.

MOM, YOU HAVE THE MEDICINE FOR SCORPIONS' VENOM, RIGHT!?

LET ME HAVE IT RIGHT AWAY.

WHAT'S GOING ON!?

IS THAT TRUE!?

DID SOME-THING HAPPEN?

ISHTAR WAS STUNG BY A SCORPION.

AFTER ALL,

ISHTAR HAD TAKEN COMMAND OF THE HITTITE ARMY IN BATTLES AGAINST EGYPT AND MITANNI BEFORE

MY HOUSE HAS A LOT OF GOOD QUALITY MEDICINAL PLANTS TOO! I'LL BRING SOME TO THE PALACE TOO.

THEN,

HURRY UP AND TAKE THIS TO THE PALACE!!

I'D BETTER BRING HER SOME MEDICINE FROM MY HOUSE.

I WONDER IF SHE'S GOING TO BE ALRIGHT.

WHAT!? ISHTAR!? THAT'S TERRIBLE.

I'M GOING TO DO SO TOO.

TAKE THE MEDICINE TO ISHTAR!!

I'M GOING TO BRING THE MEDICINE TO THE PALACE FOR ISHTAR.

YOUR HIGH-NESS!!

PRINCESS, YOUR PRANK WENT TOO FAR THIS TIME.

YURI

YOUR HIGH-NESS

YOUR HIGH-NESS

BUT IT SEEMS I DON'T NEED TO SAY ANYMORE THAN THIS.

I'LL LEAVE MATTERS IN THIS SERAGLIO FOR YOU TO MANAGE.

EVERYONE SAID THEY WISHED TO GIVE THEIR MEDICINE TO ISHTAR.

THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE GATHERING OUTSIDE THE PALACE'S WALL THAT THINGS ARE GETTING OUT OF CONTROL

YOUR HIGHNESS, ISHTAR

HUH?

ISHTAR, PLEASE GO OUT TO THE GALLERY!!

WE DON'T NEED THIS MUCH MEDICINE!!

THE PALACE ALSO HAS SOME MEDICINE

THE PEOPLE WON'T LEAVE UNLESS THEY SEE THAT YOU ARE WELL!!

MEDICINE

WE WANT TO GIVE ISHTAR OUR MEDICINE!!

I AM OKAY!!

EVERYBODY, THANK YOU!!

Reboot

Kooroo Kooroo

PROTECTED BY THE PEOPLE AND CHOSEN BY THE KING HIMSELF

THOSE WHO TRY TO COMPETE WITH HER FOR H S LOVE

PRINCESS ADDASHARRAT

ARE JUST PLAIN FOOLISH.

BUT HER ABILITY TO SUPPORT THE KING AND POLITICAL ALLIES.

BEING BORN IN IMPERIAL LINES, POLITICAL MARRIAGE IS UNAVOIDABLE.

THE BASIS FOR BEING A "QUEEN" IS NOT THE KING'S LOVE.

THIS IS FROM MY EXPERIENCE.

PLEASE DON'T MIND ME IF I SAID TOO MUCH.

PLEASE EXCUSE ME

PRINCESS

PERHAPS IT MUST BE SOMEONE LIKE HER.

WHAT AN APPROPRIATE THOUGHT BEFIT OF A QUEEN.

HMM...

PLEASE HELP ME BECOME HIS HIGHNESS'S QUEEN!!

PLEASE, AUNTY.

I NEVER THOUGHT THAT HE WOULD BE THIS GREAT OF A PERSON.

QUEEN DOWAGER'S PALACE

AUNTY, AUNTY

HELP ME!!

ALRIGHT, I'LL TRY TO FIND A WAY.

PRINCESS ICINSALRA.

I KNOW. I KNOW

THEN YOU PROMISE! ♡

REALLY?

THE INFLUENCE OF THE QUEEN DOWAGER WOULD CERTAINLY HELP.

YES, MA'AM.

THE REST OF YOU MAY LEAVE AS WELL.

Bang

THAT'S A BIT HARSH.

SHE HAS NO OTHER VALUES OTHER THAN HER STATUS AND APPEARANCE AS HER REDEEMING FEATURES. DO YOU THINK KAIL WOULD LOVE HER?

EVEN IF I FINALLY PUSHED HER IN TO THE QUEEN POSITION,

YOU WOULD GET HALF OF THE PALACE, BUT...

YOUR HIGHNESS,

ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO LET ICINSALIRA BECOME THE QUEEN?

I DON'T EXPECT ANYTHING FROM ICINSALIRA ANYWAY.

HALF THE PALACE IS NOT ENOUGH!!

IS TO GET THE WHOLE EMPIRE.

AS YOU WISH.

SHOULD WE BEGIN OUR PLAN SOON?

THE PURPOSE OF ROUNDING UP THOSE WOMEN IN THE SERAGLIO

HMM...

SEND THIS "BLACK WATER" TO THE SERAGLIO.

WELL, WHICH PRINCESS SHOULD I CONTROL AS THE "ASSASSIN"?

IT'S REALLY FUN TO PICK WHICH ONE TO USE..

ASSEMBLY OF MINISTERS

AS THE QUEEN OF KING MURSIL II.

WE, THE COUNCIL, HAVE UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO NOMINATE

PRINCESS ADDASHARRAT OF ASSYRIA

MOODY

NO, I DON'T.

PRINCESS ADDASHARRAT WILL CERTAINLY BE A GOOD QUEEN.

QUEEN DOWAGER, YOUR NIECE, PRINCESS ICINSAJRA, IS ALSO ONE OF THE PRINCESSES BEING CONSIDERED FOR THE QUEEN POSITION DO YOU HAVE ANY OPINION ON THIS?

HAVING SOMEONE OTHER THAN PRINCESS YURI AS HIS HIGHNESS'S QUEEN IS UNTHINKABLE!

THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM!!

LIAR!

WHY DIDN'T THE QUEEN DOWAGER PROTEST!?

I thought she would try to push her own niece for the position.

KING UBARITT OF ASSYRIA WOULD CERTAINLY DEMAND GREATER OUTPUTS OF IRON EXPORTS.

THE PRINCESS IS UNQUESTIONABLY SAGACIOUS. HOWEVER, IF WE TIE A POLITICAL CONNECTION WITH ASSYRIA NOW,

Murmur

HIS HIGHNESS IS RIGHT.

Murmur

Murmur

Murmur

IF ASSYRIA HAS MORE IRON IN THEIR POSSESSION, THE MILITARY BALANCE BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES WOULD CRUMBLE.

WE CANNOT EXPORT EVEN MORE IRON THAN THIS!

OUR COUNTRY IS ABLE TO REMAIN ONE OF THE TWO STRONGEST IN THE ORIENT BECAUSE WE HAVE IRON.

THE COUNCIL RECOMMENDED PRINCESS ADDASHARRAT TO BE QUEEN!?

AAAH... THIS IS SO IRRITATING!

YES, PRINCESS YURI.

HIS HIGHNESS SHOULD JUST THROW EVERY ONE OF THOSE PRINCESSES OUT.

HIS HIGHNESS WOULDN'T DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

NO, HE CANNOT DO SO.

.....

FWRUP

ALTHOUGH THIS IS A GOOD RECOMMENDATION, I WOULD LIKE TO PUT THE DECISION ON HOLD FOR THE MOMENT.

THAT IS ALL; YOU MAY GO.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR EFFORTS.

PRINCESS YURI?

I LIKE THE FACT THAT HIS HIGHNESS IS NOT A TYRANT.

IN THE HITTITE EMPIRE, NATIONAL AFFAIRS ARE DECIDED BY THE VOTING POWERS OF THREE BODIES:

THE TABARNA (THE KING), THE TAWANANNA (THE QUEEN), AND THE COUNCIL.

THIS IS PROBABLY THE BEST GOVERNMENT SYSTEM IN THE ORIENT.

FWUP

EVER SINCE I DECIDED TO STAY HERE, I'VE ALREADY ANTICIPATED THAT THINGS MAY NOT BE PLEASANT ALL THE TIME.

FRETTING LIKE THIS IS NOT LIKE ME AT ALL...

I'LL ACCEPT WHOMEVER KAIL CHOOSES AS HIS QUEEN.

wap

KAIL!?

YURI,

YOU SHOULD COME WITH ME TOO.

AFTER THIS, I WILL GO TO THE SECOND TEMPLE.

OKAY.

I WANT YOU TO LEARN ABOUT THE FUNCTIONS.

YOUR HIGHNESS, PRINCESS YURI,

PLEASE WAIT A MOMENT.

THE QUEEN DOWAGER HAS MADE HER MOVE.

YOUR HIGHNESS, I HAVE URGENT NEWS TO INFORM YOU OF.

ILBANI?

WH..
WHAT HAS THE QUEEN DOWAGER DONE THIS TIME?

THIS MAN TAKES CARE OF THE KITCHEN.

GO ON, TELL HIS HIGHNESS WHAT HAPPENED.

THE WINE WAS TO BE OFFERED TO THE PRINCESSES WHO ARE CANDIDATES FOR THE QUEEN POSITION.

LAST NIGHT, A FLASK OF WINE FROM THE QUEEN DOWAGER WAS DELIVERED TO THE SERAGLIO.

YOUR HIGHNESS,

YOUR..

WHAT!?

WINE FROM THE QUEEN DOWAGER..

DON'T TELL ME IT'S...!?

WHICH PRINCESS WAS THE WINE SENT TO?

OR WAS IT SENT TO EVERYONE!?

WINE FROM THE QUEEN DOWAGER..

GIVEN TO ONE OF THOSE 7 PRINCESSES...

SINCE THE QUEEN DOWAGER'S EMISSARY TOLD OTHER SERVANTS IN THE SERAGLIO TO KEEP AWAY.

N...NO, SIR. PER... PERHAPS IT WAS ONLY FOR ONE PERSON SINCE THERE WAS ONLY ONE FLASK.

HOWEVER, I DON'T KNOW WHICH PRINCESS IT WAS SENT TO...

QUEEN NAKIA'S WINE MUST HAVE THE "BLACK WATER" INSIDE FOR SURE.

I KNOW IT IS INEXCUSABLE, BUT I CANNOT GO AGAINST SOMEONE LIKE THE QUEEN DOWAGER'S EMISSARY...

YOU CAN GO NOW. FORGET ABOUT ALL OF THIS.

SHE MUST PLAN TO USE THE CONTROLLING "WATER" TO DO SOMETHING!

IT'S THE SAME AS WHAT HAPPENED TO TITO AND PRINCE ZANANZA.

WE ALREADY KNOW WHAT THE QUEEN DOWAGER WANTS.

"SOMETHING"?

MY LIFE!?

RIGHT, SHE WANTS THE THRONE,

AND FOR THAT REASON, YURI'S LIFE

ROUNDING UP THE PRINCESSES TO KILL ME!?

THEN...

IT'S TO CREATE AN ASSASSIN WHO CAN WALK AROUND FREELY INSIDE THE SERAGLIO!!

I SEE.

THE QUEEN DOWAGER'S OBJECTIVE IS NOT FOR HER NIECE TO BECOME MY QUEEN.

WHO'S THE ASSASSIN AMONG THOSE 7 PRINCESSES!?

WHO!?

DRANK THE QUEEN DOWAGER'S WINE?

WHICH ONE

turn

turn

turn

EVER SINCE THE DAY THAT I YELLED AT THEM, THE PRINCESSES SEEM TO HAVE GOTTEN MUCH QUIETER

I didn't mean to make them all afraid of me!

Who Dis?

CAUGHT YA ♡

Come play with me today, okay?

I ESPECIALLY DON'T WANT TO THINK THAT THIS PRINCESS COULD BE THE ASSASSIN...

I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT.

WINE FROM AUNTY?

THE QUEEN DOWAGER CAN MANIPULATE EVEN HER OWN SON, HER NIECE IS NO EXCEPTION.

WINE?

I HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT THAT, ISHTAR.

BUT THEN...

I DIDN'T EXPECT THE ONE BEING MANIPULATED TO TELL THE TRUTH ANYWAY.

SOMEONE AMONGST US MUST HAVE ALREADY DRUNK THE "BLACK WATER."

WHO IS IT?

YEAH, YOU THREE ARE THE BEST BODYGUARDS IN THIS SERAGLIO ANYWAY.

NO MATTER WHICH PRINCESS IS THE ASSASSIN, WE WOULDN'T LET HER LAY EVEN A FINGER ON PRINCESS YURI

THAT'S RIGHT.

PRINCESS YURI

YOU'LL GET SICK IF YOU WORRY TOO MUCH.

klank

FWUP

I'M PRETTY SURE THAT

IT'S VERY HARD TO FIND A WOMAN WHO CAN MATCH YOU AND THOSE THREE SISTERS IN FIGHTING SKILLS.

YEAH...

WHAT'S WRONG?

YOU LOOK DEPRESSED

THIS CAN LEAD TO INTER-NATIONAL DISPUTES.

IT WOULD BE BAD IF A PERSON WHO IS BEING MANIPULATED IS A PRINCESS.

IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.

THAT PERSON MAY BE THE ONE WHO WILL BECOME THE SHIELD SUPPORTING KAIL'S BACK.

YOU...

YOUR LIFE IS BEING TARGETED, YET YOU STILL WORRY ABOUT THIS KIND OF STUFF

I'M NOT AFRAID OF THINGS LIKE PROBLEMS IN INTERNATIONAL SCALE.

KAIL!?

YU-RI

DO NOT UNDERESTI-MATE ME.

I STILL CAN GOVERN THE COUNTRY EVEN WITHOUT SOMEONE LIKE THAT.

I'M NOT AFRAID OF SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

I DON'T WANT A QUEEN TO BE MY GUARDIAN.

THERE'S SOMETHING KAIL IS AFRAID OF TOO?

THERE IS....

AHH...

IN THE PAST...

KAIL ALWAYS REMAINED AWAKE, EVEN WHILE IN BED WITH A LOVER.

WHAT ABOUT NOW?

I END UP BEING THE ONE WHO DOESN'T THINK OF ANYTHING FIRST.

EVERY TIME...

I WANT TO FIND OUT BUT

HOW IS KAIL WHEN HE'S WITH ME?

KA...IL...

HOW CAN I EXPLAIN TO YOU

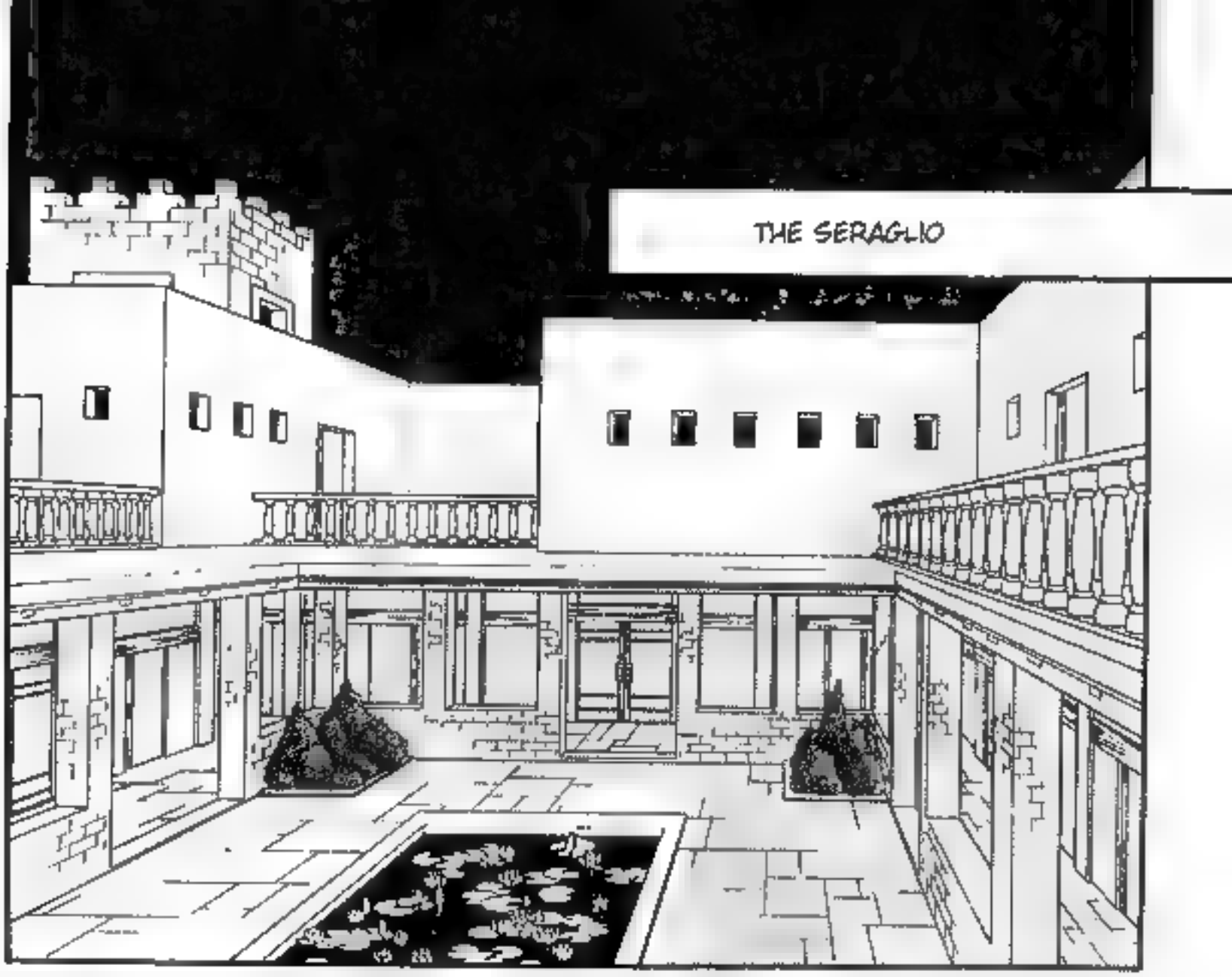
WHAT I'M AFRAID OF EVEN MORE THAN THAT?

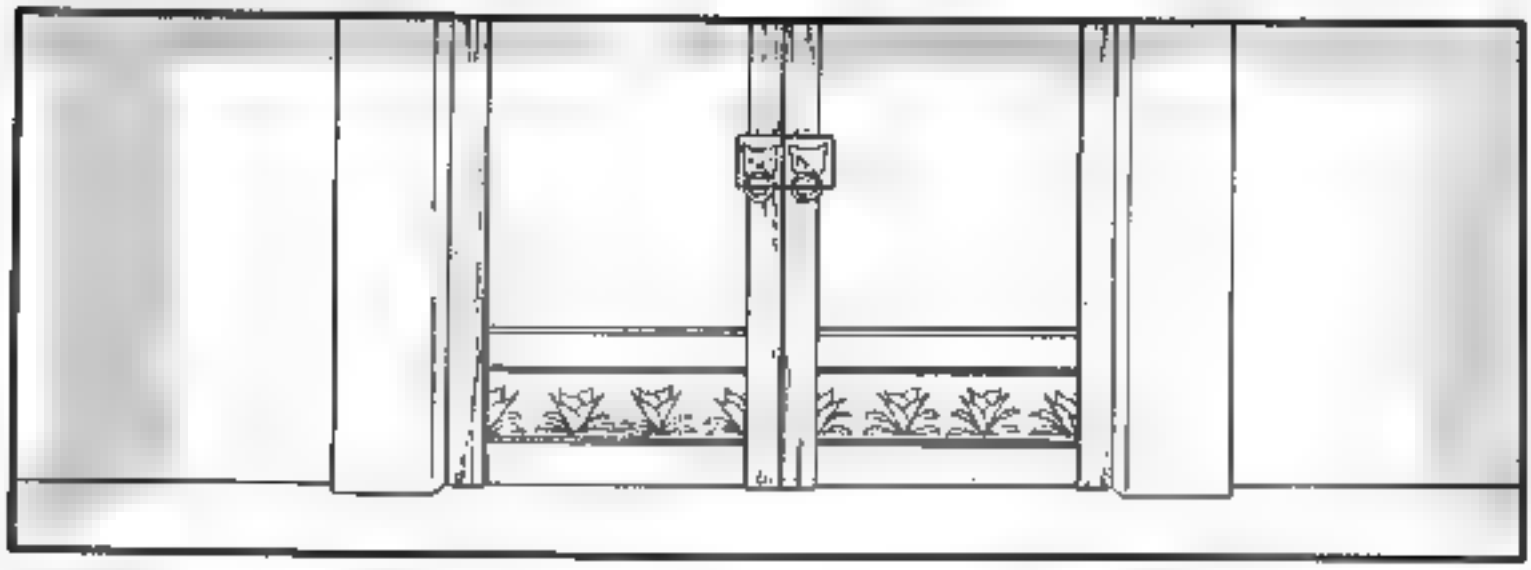
EVEN THEN, I'M STILL WORRIED.

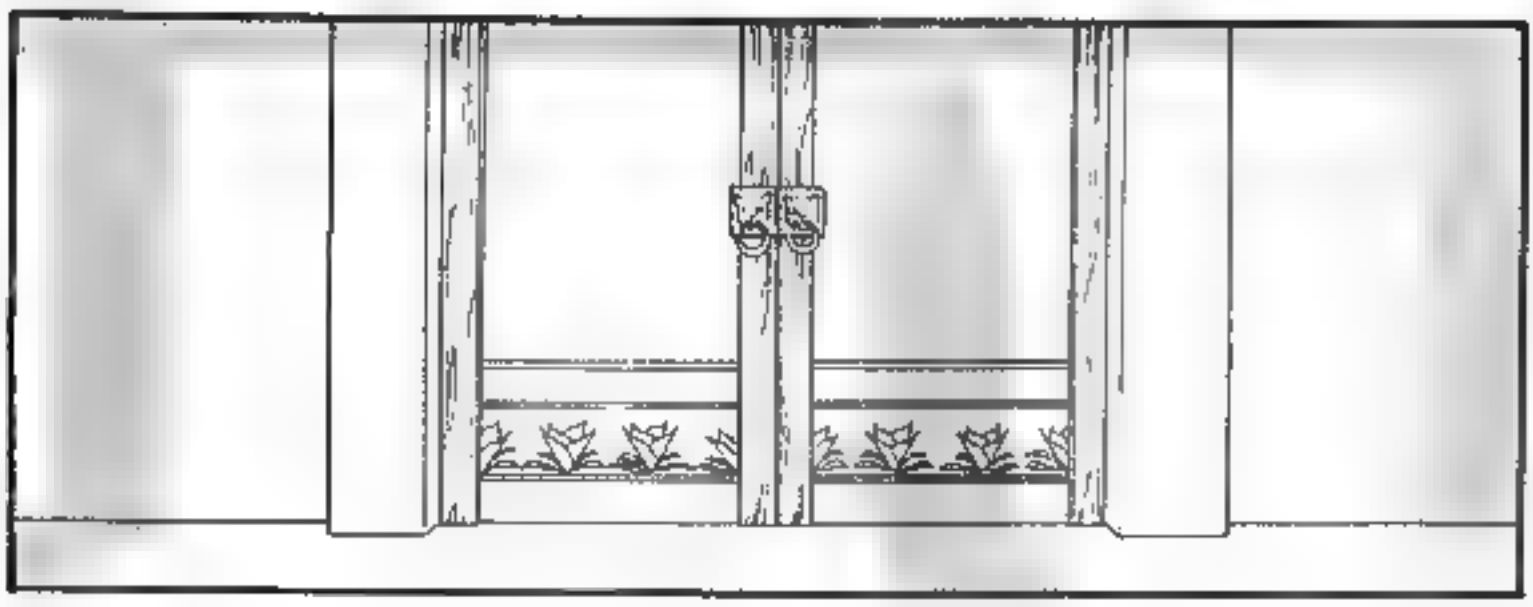
SO THAT YOU WOULDN'T BE TAKEN AWAY OR RUN AWAY OR DISAPPEAR AS I SLEEP.

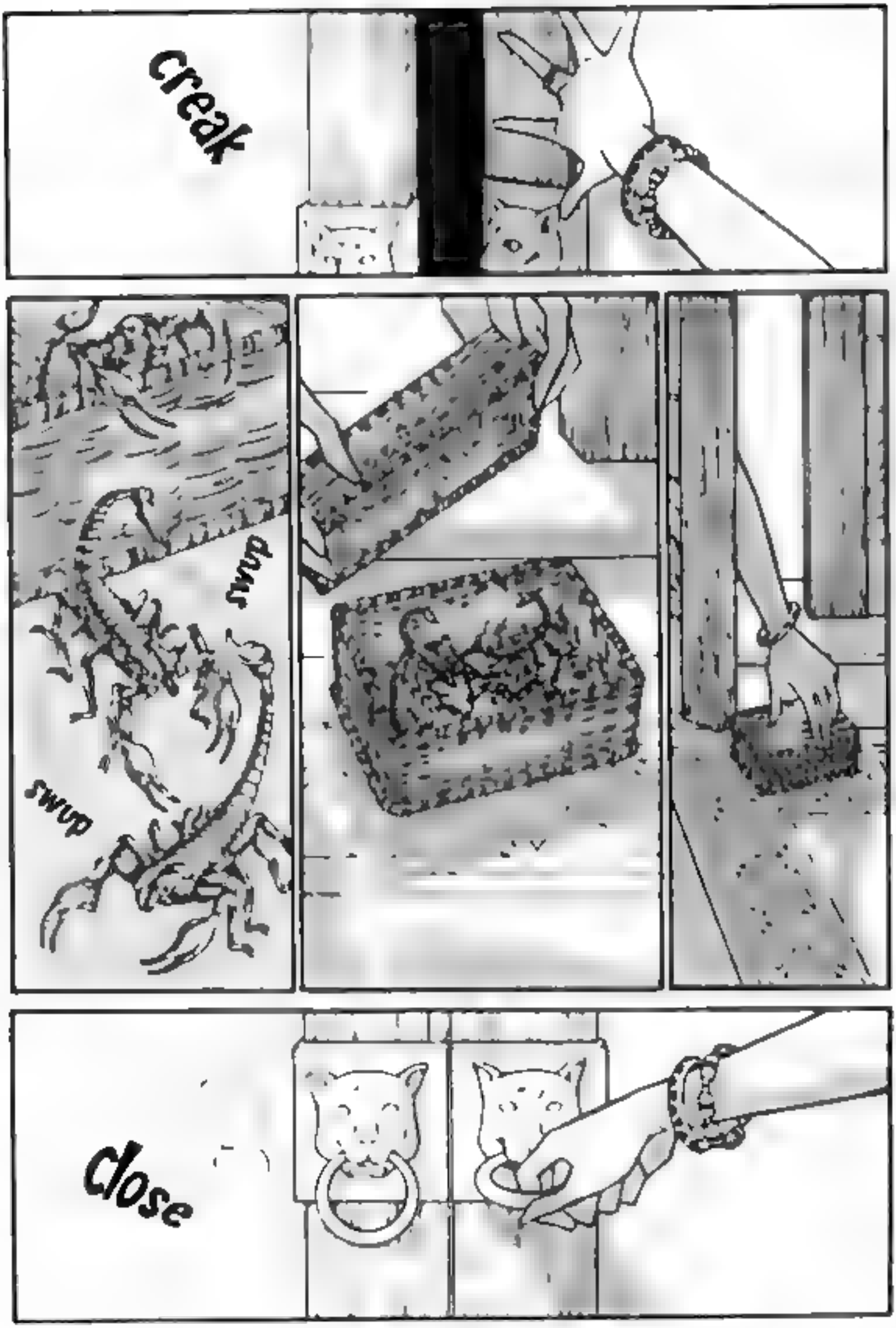
EVERY NIGHT I HOLD YOU CLOSE IN MY ARMS

HOW CAN I EXPLAIN THIS TO YOU?


THE SERAGLIO



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dmm
swup
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tweet

tweet

RISE AND SHINE, PRINCESS.

PRINCESS

GOOD MORNING

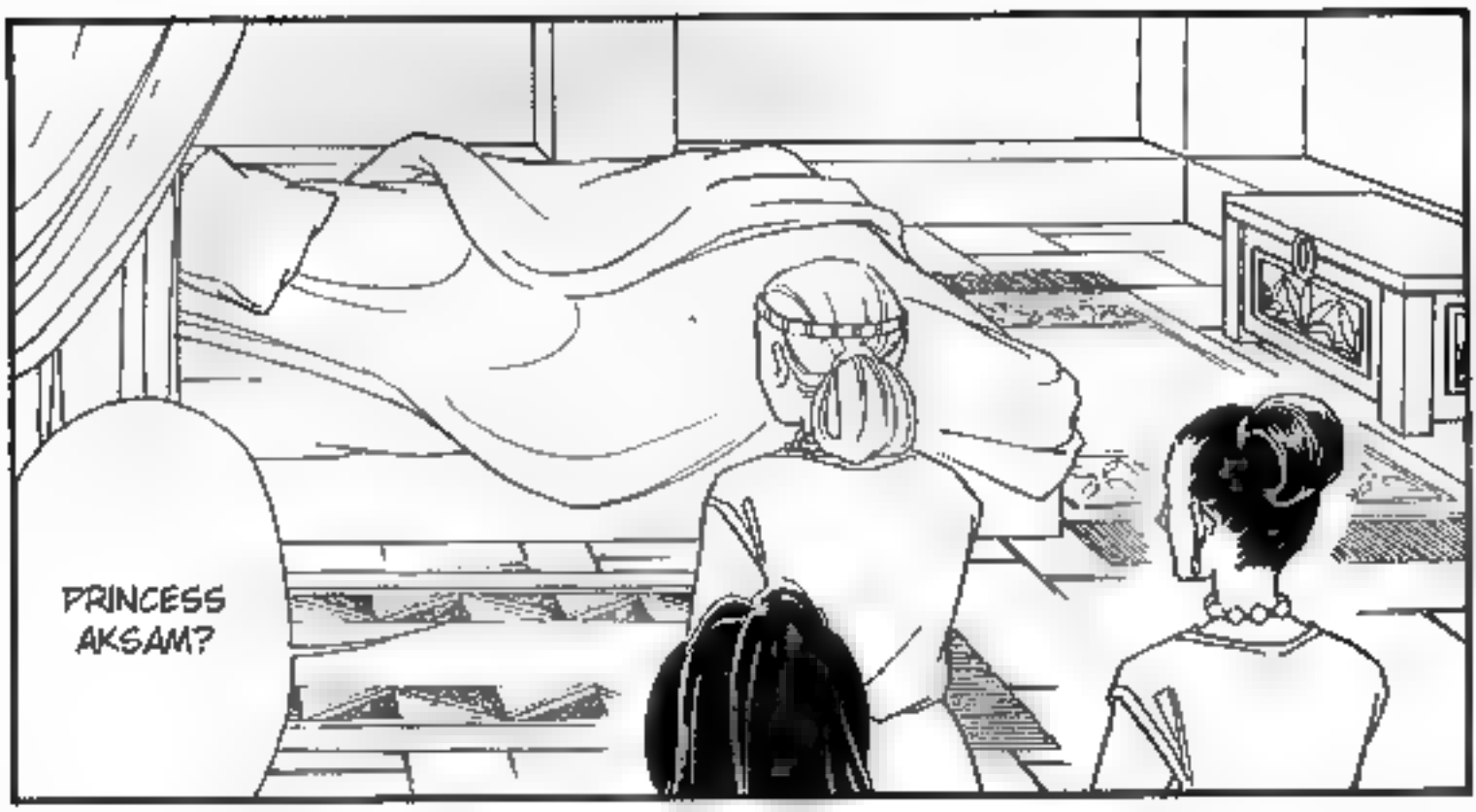
PRINCESS, IT'S TIME TO GET DRESSED.

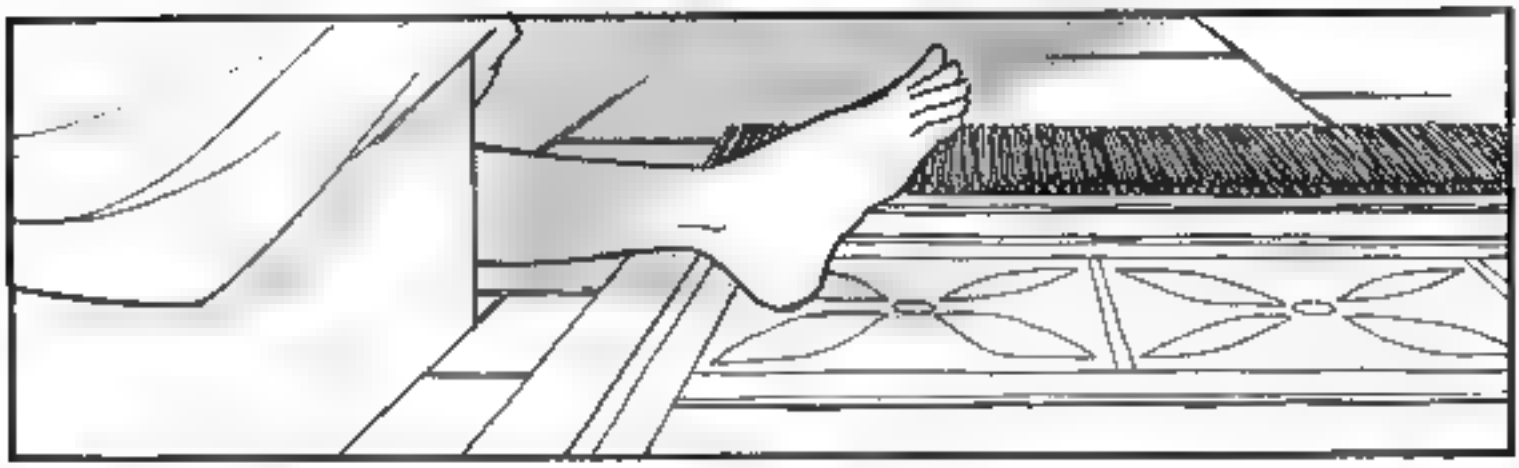
HUH?

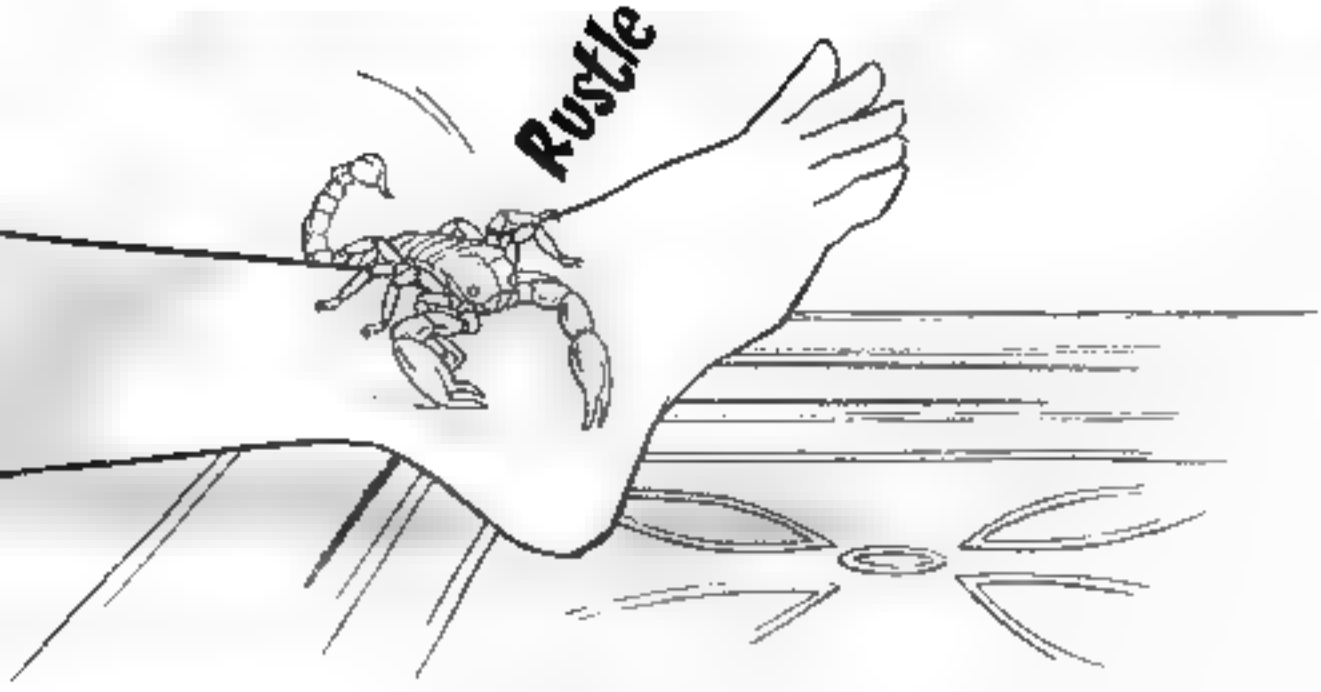
thup

creak

EXCUSE ME


PRINCESS AKSAM?

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PRINCESS!?

BUT PRINCESS AKSAM HAS BEEN ASSASSINATED.

FORGIVE ME FOR INTER-RUPTING YOUR BREAKFAST,

YOUR HIGHNESS

WHAT!?

WHY THE PRINCESS? ISN'T THE TARGET ME!?

WHY WAS PRINCESS AKSAM KILLED?

THE ONE THE QUEEN DOWAGER WANTS TO KILL SHOULD BE ME.

AAH!! PLEASE DON'T COME IN YET!!

YOUR HIGHNESS! ISHTAR!

THERE ARE POISONOUS SCORPIONS IN HERE!

PLEASE DON'T COME IN UNTIL WE HAVE KILLED ALL OF THEM..

POISONOUS SCORPI-ONS!?

WHERE IS THE PRIN-CESS!?

HER... HER BODY IS IN ANOTHER ROOM.

YES, MA'AM

SOMEONE PUT THEM IT THIS BOX AND SET THEM FREE LAST NIGHT.

PRINCESS AKSAM!!

PRINCESS!!

WAAAAAAH

LAST NIGHT AROUND HER BEDROOM?

DID YOU SEE ANYONE SUSPI-CIOUS

YOUR HIGH-NESS. HOW COULD SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAPPEN IN THE SERAGLIO?

IT'S UNTHINK-ABLE

LET ME SEE THE BODY

YOUR HIGHNESS

ISHTAR WAS VERY ANGRY AT PRINCESS AKSAM WHEN SHE SET SCORPIONS FREE IN HER BEDROOM.

mumble

BEING KILLED BY SCORPI-ONS...

mumble

BUT...

I ERRONE-OUSLY FELL ASLEEP LAST NIGHT

!?

N...NO, I DIDN'T MEAN SO.

IF YOU DON'T HAVE A VALID PROOF, DO NOT SPEAK

ARE YOU IMPLYING THAT MY CONCUBINE HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THIS?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

INCREASE THE NUMBER OF GUARDS WITHIN THE SERAGLIO!!

PROTECT PRINCESS YURI AND THE REST OF THE PRINCESSES!!

WE'LL CATCH THE PERSON THE QUEEN DOWAGER IS CONTROLLING.

DON'T WORRY.

KAIL

THE THREE COMMANDERS!

WE WANT TO BE NEARBY TO PROTECT PRINCESS YURI.

YOUR HIGHNESS, PLEASE ALLOW US TO GUARD THE SERAGLIO TOO.

YES, SIR!!

I'M COUNTING ON ALL OF YOU THEN.

KASH, RUSAFA, MITTAN-NAMWA.

WHY DID THIS HAPPEN OR WAS IT A MISTAKE!?

OR WAS IT THAT THE QUEEN DOWAGER'S TARGET WASN'T ME FROM THE BEGINNING!?

PRINCESS AKSAM'S BODY IS BEING CARRIED OUT OF THE ROYAL PALACE.

HURRY UP.

THE PRINCESS'S FATHER,

LORD TUDALIA WAS ECSTATIC WHEN SHE WAS ELECTED TO BE ONE OF THE QUEEN CANDIDATES.

LIFE IS FULL OF UNCERTAINTY, ISN'T IT?

klang

THIS HAPPENED BECAUSE I WAS TOO CARELESS.

UNCLE, PLEASE ACCEPT MY SINCERE APOLOGY.

OH.. AKSAM

BUT I TRUST THAT YOU WILL CERTAINLY FIND THE KILLER IN THE END.

YOUR HIGHNESS, YOU CAN'T LOWER YOUR HEAD LIKE THAT.

PRINCESS AKSAM'S PARENTS. IT'S NORMAL THAT THEY WOULDN'T FORGIVE THE KILLER.

I WILL.

PLEASE, YOU MUST GIVE THE DEATH PENALTY TO THE KILLER!!

YOUR HIGHNESS,

HEY,

CAN YOU SEE!?

murmur

DON'T PUSH!!

murmur

murmur

murmur

LOOK, EVERYONE IS SO OCCUPIED WITH WHAT'S HAPPENING OUTSIDE.

THE SERAGLIO SUDDENLY SEEMS SO EMPTY.

H..HEY... THAT...

HUH?

GET BACK TO WORK!!

IN... IN THE POND ..

WHAT!

YOUR HIGHNESS, ANOTHER PRINCESS HAS BEEN ASSASSI-NATED

SOMEONE JUST FOUND THE BODY IN THE GARDEN POOL.

A...ANOTHER PRINCESS...?

WHO WAS ASSASSI-NATED!?

PRIN... PRINCESS LIRE, YOUR MAJESTY.

WHAT IS THIS? WHAT WERE THE PALACE GUARDS DOING?

YOUR.. YOUR HIGHNESS

PLEASE FORGIVE US.

THIS ROPE WAS STILL ENTANGLED AROUND HER NECK WHEN WE PULLED HER OUT.

DID SHE DROWN?

NO, SIR.

THE BODY WAS THROWN INTO THE WATER AFTER SHE'D BEEN STRANGLED.

NO.

THIS JUST HAPPENED RECENTLY. DON'T LET ANYONE IN OR OUT OF

YOUR HIGHNESS, DO YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW ANYTHING?

KAIL?

YOUR HIGHNESS, YOU SUM-MONED US?

HADI,

DO YOU RECOGNIZE THIS ROPE?

YES, SIR. THIS ROPE. .

...BELONGS TO PRINCESS YURI.

WHAT!?

I THINK IT IS PART OF THE DRESS THAT HIS HIGHNESS GAVE TO PRINCESS YURI AS A PRESENT NOT TOO LONG AGO.

SO WE KEPT IT WITH OTHER JEWELRIES.

BUT PRINCESS YURI WASN'T VERY INTERESTED IN HER APPEARANCE,

MY ROPE WAS USED BY THE KILLER!?

WE'RE SORRY. THAT IS INEXCUSABLE.

DOESN'T THAT MEAN IT WAS STOLEN BY THE KILLER?

STILL, THE ROPE WAS USED IN THE CRIME.

SINCE THEN, NO OUTSIDER HAS GOTTEN NEAR PRINCESS YURI'S ROOM AT ALL.

B... BUT SIR,

I'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU TO BE ATTENTIVE OF PRINCESS YURI'S SURROUNDINGS.

WHAT IS THE QUEEN DOWAGER THINKING?

WHY MUST THE KILLER USE MY ROPE?

WAIT, BUT WHY?

KAIL? WHAT'S WRONG?

YOUR MAJESTY

JUST A MOMENT AGO,

THERE WAS AN URGENT MESSAGE DELIVERED FROM BABYLONIA, SIR.

A MESSAGE FROM BABY-LONIA?

KAIL

WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

.....

THE KING'S YOUNGER BROTHER, PRINCE TULLIKNILA I, IS COMING TO HATTUSA AS BABYLONIA'S AMBASSADOR.

KAIL!

YURI, DON'T COME OUT OF THE SERAGLIO... NO, DON'T COME OUT OF YOUR ROOM NO MATTER WHAT.

HE SAID HE WANTED TO COME SEE HOW PRINCESS ICINSALRA IS DOING SINCE SHE'S BEEN STAYING IN THE SERAGLIO....

AT A TIME LIKE THIS, WHY WOULD...

THE QUEEN DOWAGER'S TARGET IS MY LIFE, ISN'T IT? .... THEN WHY?

THAT'S RIGHT.....

EH?

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

DON'T YOU THINK QUEEN DOWAGER'S TACTIC THIS TIME IS STRANGE?

QUEEN DOWAGER'S NUMBER ONE OBJECTIVE IS TO CUT OFF PRINCESS YURI'S HEAD

BUT SHE WON'T SUCCEED NO MATTER WHICH PRINCESS SHE USES AS THE "ASSASSIN."

PRINCESS ICINSAURA!?

EVERYONE WAS ORDERED TO STAY WITHIN THE SERAGLIO. WHERE IS SHE GOING?

PLEASE STAY IN YOUR BEDROOM, OKAY?

WE'RE GOING TO GO PREPARE YOUR MEAL.

PRINCESS YURI

HADI!!

BANG

UMM...

DON'T TELL ME THIS PRINCESS IS THE "ASSASSIN" THE QUEEN DOWAGER S CONTROLLING!?

SHE'S GOING INTO A DESERTED AREA TOO...

IF SHE WAS GOING INTO THE ASSEMBLY HALL, I WOULD HAVE JUST ASSUMED THAT SHE WAS GOINGING TO GO SEE THE AMBASSADOR OF BABYLONIA.

FIGHT!!
DAMN IT...
!?
WHO'S THIS!?
BIG... HANDS...?
I WAS TOO CARELESS...

NOTHING BEATS SEEING YOU IN GOOD HEALTH, KING MURSILI II.

MY BROTHER, THE KING OF BABYLONIA SENT YOU HIS BEST REGARDS.

YOU MUST BE TIRED FROM TRAVELING

PRINCE TULUKNILALI

KURIGALZU II IS MY STEPMOTHER QUEEN DOWAGER NAKIA'S OLDER BROTHER, AND YOU ARE HER YOUNGER BROTHER.

PLEASE ENJOY YOUR STAY.

OUR SIDE ALSO WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ANOTHER CONNECTION WITH THE ROYAL FAMILY OF THE HITTITES, JUST AS MY SISTER NAKIA PREVIOUSLY ESTABLISHED

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR OFFER.

LATELY PRINCESS ICINSAURA HAS ALSO BEEN RECEIVING YOUR HOSPITALITY...

AAAA... THAT SOUNDS GOOD.

FOR NOW, SHALL WE GO DRINK SOME WINE IN ANOTHER ROOM?

LET'S TALK ABOUT THAT LATER.

.....

IS IT REALLY ABOUT BUILDING CONNECTIONS WITH THE ROYAL FAMILY?

THE QUEEN DOWAGER'S YOUNGER BROTHER CAME AT A TIME LIKE THIS.

MMM...

MY HEAD HURTS..

AM I.....?

WHERE...

PRINCESS ICINSAURA !?

PLEASE COME THIS WAY

open

TH...THIS...!?

ICINSAURA!!

I'M BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND

THE QUEEN DOWAGER'S OBJECTIVE NOW.

QUEEN DOWAGER NAKIA...

THE QUEEN DOWAGER...

ICINSAURA!!

WH...WHAT THE HELL IS THIS, YOUR HIGHNESS!?!

THE QUEEN DOWAGER INTENDS TO MAKE ME THE SERIAL KILLER WHO MURDERED THOSE PRINCESSES!

THE PUNISHMENT FOR KILLING ROYALTIES IS DECAPITATION!

QUEEN DOWAGER NAKIA DIDN'T PLAN TO KILL ME DIRECTLY.

ICINSAURA!

T... THIS...

WHY... WHY ICINSAURA!?

KAI-

YURI, WHAT HAPPENED? HOW DID THAT BLOOD GET ON YOU?

NO, YOUR HIGHNESS, I. .

WHO ARE YOU!?

THAT'S RIGHT. WHY DID YOU KILL ICIN-SAURA!?

I... I DIDN'T.

I DIDN'T KILL HER!!

SHE PLANNED TO FRAME ME AS THE KILLER AND EXECUTE ME IN THE OPEN INSTEAD!

SO THIS IS THE CONCUBINE WHO IS RUMORED TO BE ISHTAR REINCARNATED...

PRINCE TULLK-NILA..!

THIS GIRL IS MY CONCUBINE, YURI ISHTAR.

I SEE.

THE CONCUBINE WHO WANTS TO MONOPOL ZE THE LORD'S AFFECTION...

GOT JEALOUS OF THE PRINCESS WHO WILL BECOME THE NEW QUEEN. TO TELL THE TRUTH, IT HAPPENS QU TE OFTEN.

KIKKURI, TAKE YURI TO ANOTHER ROOM.

IT'S NOT LIKE THAT! SOMEONE BROUGHT ME HERE WHILE I WASN'T CONSCIOUS..

DON'T GO ANYWHERE UNTIL I GO SEE YOU, YURI.

YOUR HIGH-NESS!

PRINCESS YURI, PLEASE DO AS HIS HIGHNESS SAID....

KING MURSILI II!

THE PRINCESS WHO CAME AS AN OFFICIAL VISITOR ENDED UP BEING MURDERED LIKE THIS....

HOW DO YOU WANT ME TO REPORT THIS TO MY OLDER BROTHER, KING OF BABYLONIA, WHO IS ALSO ICINSALIRA'S FATHER!?

I EXPECT TO SEE THAT THIS MATTER IS HANDLED PROPERLY AND THE KILLER TO BE PUNISHED TO THE EXTENT OF THE CRIME.

I DIDN'T KILL PRINCESS AKSAM OR PRINCESS URE EITHER.

IT'S NOT ME!!

I DIDN'T KILL ANYONE!

...RI

PRINCESS YURI

THE KILLER IS ANOTHER PRINCESS WHO WAS CONTROLLED BY THE QUEEN DOWAGER!

HADI

PRINCESS YURI, PLEASE CHANGE YOUR CLOTHES.

TO REACH HER GOAL, EVEN HER OWN NIECE WASN'T AN EXCEPTION. WHAT A SCARY PERSON.

THE QUEEN DOWAGER SUMMONED HER YOUNGER BROTHER, PRINCE TULUKNILALI TO HAVE HIM BE THE WITNESS OF THE CASE.

NO...

I CAN'T DO THAT YET IT HAS TO BE INVESTIGATED PROPERLY FIRST.

PLEASE CHANGE OUT OF THOSE BLOOD-STAINED CLOTHES.

SO PLEASE CHANGE YOUR CLOTHES FIRST.

PRINCESS YURI WOULD ALSO HAVE TO GIVE TESTIMONY.

IF YOU MEAN THE INVESTIGATION,

HIS HIGHNESS IS DIRECTING THE SOLDIERS ON THE SUBJECT RIGHT NOW.

THAT'S RIGHT

THIS PLACE STILL DOESN'T HAVE SCIENTIFIC CRIME EXAMINATION LIKE CHECKING FOR FINGERPRINTS OR VERIFYING BLOOD TYPE.

IT'S THE SAME AS THE TIME WHEN THE LAST KING WAS

EVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCE ALONE CAN ALREADY MAKE ME THE MURDERER!

THE BEST WAY IS TO FIND THE REAL KILLER.

HOWEVER, THE QUEEN DOWAGER PROBABLY HAS STOPPED HER MOVES.

FINDING THE REAL KILLER NOW IS GOING TO BE MUCH HARDER.

YOUR HIGHNESS, WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

WE CAN'T EVEN HAVE PRINCESS YUR ESCAPE TO EARN MORE TIME

LIKE WHEN THE LAST KING WAS ASSAS-SINATED.

QUEEN DOWAGER'S PALACE

HAHAHA

HAHAHA

I GUESS I'M GOING TO EXECUTE HER THIS WAY

THIS TIME YURI CAN'T ESCAPE FOR SURE.

SHE IS NO USE TO US AS LONG AS YURI IS GOING TO BE EXE-CUTED

JUST LEAVE THINGS AS THEY ARE.

QUEEN DOWAGER, WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH THE PERSON WE ARE CONTROL-LING?

THAT'S TRUE.

THE PERSON IS UNDER MY CONTROL

BECAUSE SHE HAS DRUNK THE "BLACK WATER."

BUT UNLESS SHE RECEIVES ORDERS FROM ME, SHE WOULD NOT BE DIFFERENT FROM ANY OTHER ORDINARY PERSON.

THE KING MUST ACQUIRE A QUEEN.

ISHTAR IS PROBABLY NOT SO THRILLED WITH THE IDEA.

IS IT TRUE THAT ISHTAR KILLED PRINCESS ICINSAURA!?

NO MATTER HOW MUCH THE KING FAVORS HER, KILLING PRINCESSES OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES IS STILL.

I WONDER HOW ISHTAR IS DOING RIGHT NOW.

IT SEEMS SO. I HEARD THAT SHE WAS FOUND AT THE CRIME SCENE.

THE RUMOR SAID THAT ISHTAR WAS ALSO THE ONE WHO KILLED PRINCESS AKSAM AND PRINCESS UIRE

IT SEEMS THAT THE KILLER HAS BEEN CAUGHT, PRINCESS SABAHA.

THAT'S RIGHT

BUT IT'S SO SCARY TO THINK THAT THE KING'S CONCUBINE COULD DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

HE

HE

I WONDER IF I SHOULD THANK HER IN PERSON FOR THAT.

BUT THANKS TO HER, THE NUMBER OF MY RIVALS HAS BEEN REDUCED. NOW THERE ARE ONLY 4 CANDIDATES LEFT FROM THE ORIGINAL 7

creak

OH, DID YOU FORGET SOMETHING?

BANG

HMMM...WHAT SHOULD I WEAR TO SEE HIS HIGHNESS TOMORROW?

GOOD NIGHT, PRINCESS.

YOU'RE KIDDING AGAIN...

HUH?

COMING TO VISIT THIS LATE, IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG?

whoosh

EH?

AAAAAAGH!

PRINCESS!!

WHAT!?

THIS TIME
PRINCESS SABAHA
WAS ASSASSINATED!?

ANOTHER PRINCESS HAS BEEN ASSASSI-NATED!?

ISHTAR ISN'T THE KILLER?

BUT ISHTAR WAS GUARDED BY THE COUNCIL FOR THE WHOLE TIME.

THEN THE PERSON WHO KILLED ICIN-SAURA WAS SOMEONE ELSE, LIKE SHE SAID!?

HOW COME IT STILL GOES ON?

I'VE BEEN ARRESTED, SO WHY IS THIS NOT OVER YET!?

YEAH, I HEARD THAT SHE DIDN'T STEP OUT OF HER ROOM AT ALL.

THEN THE KILLER MUST BE SOMEONE ELSE!

I DIDN'T ORDER HER TO DO ANYTHING YET.

CRASH

WHAT IS THIS!?

THAT'S TRUE.

BUT BECAUSE OF THIS, WE CAN'T MAKE PRINCESS YURI THE KILLER ANYMORE.

USUALLY THE PERSON WHO DRANK THE BLACK WATER WOULD ONLY TAKE ACTIONS ON MY COMMANDS!

BUT SHE MADE A MOVE EVEN WITHOUT MY COMMAND, HOW COULD THIS BE?

IN FACT, WE DIDN'T REALLY SUSPECT YOU, BUT SINCE WE WERE THE COUNCIL...

GRAND CHAMBERLAIN AIGIL, I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT THE OTHER MATTER. WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHO THE KILLER IS, DO WE?

Y... YES, MA'AM.

PLEASE EXCUSE US.

ISHTAR

PLEASE FORGIVE US FOR DOUBTING YOU.

THAT'S RIGHT! QUEEN DOWAGER NAKIA CAN CONTROL THE WATER.

BUT YOUR HIGHNESS, TOO, CAN CONTROL THE WIND, RIGHT?

I INHERITED MY ABILITY FROM MY MOTHER, BUT MY MOTHER USED TO ALWAYS SAY THAT,

"TO GOVERN HUMAN, WE HAVE TO USE HUMAN ABILITY."

IF IT'S THE SAME TYPE OF DARK POWERS,

THEN SHOULDN'T WE BE ABLE TO USE IT TO FIND THE KILLER?

DARK POWERS ARE ABILITIES BEYOND HUMANS.

EVER SINCE I ASSUMED THE THRONE, I HAVE BEEN CAREFUL NOT TO USE IT.

BUT, WHO IS BEING CONTROLLED?

THE ASSASSINATION THIS TIME DID NOT BENEFIT THE QUEEN DOWAGER AT ALL... I DON'T THINK THE QUEEN DOWAGER WAS THE ONE WHO COMMANDED IT.

I'M SORRY FOR SAYING TOO MUCH.

YOUR HIGHNESS

HMM?

IF THAT'S THE CASE, WHOM DID SHE DO IT FOR?

WOULD YOU MAKE UP A REASON TO HAVE THE THREE REMAINING PRINCESSES GATHER INTO ONE PLACE?

WE MAY BE ABLE TO. .

FIND OUT

WHY? DO YOU KNOW WHO THE KILLER IS!?

PRINCESS ALEXANDRA OF ARZAWA

PRINCESS ADDASHARRAT OF ASSYRIA,

THE REMAINING PRINCESSES ARE PRINCESS CELT OF THE ROYAL FAMILY OF HITTITES,

THE PERSON WHO KILLED THOSE FOUR PRINCESSES MUST DEFINITELY BE AMONG THESE THREE!

TODAY I SET UP THIS OCCASION SO THAT EVERYONE WOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE THEIR MIND OUT OF THOSE MATTERS FOR A SHORT WHILE.

I'D LIKE TO APOLOGIZE TO EVERYONE FOR THE DISTRESSING MATTERS THAT HAVE BEEN HAPPENING THESE DAYS.

....

EVERYONE, PLEASE ENJOY THE PARTY.

THAT'S RIGHT

HIS HIGHNESS IS ALWAYS KIND LIKE THIS.

JEALOUSY!!

THEN THERE IS ONLY ONE REASON TO CONSIDER

A PRINCESS WAS ASSASSINATED EVEN WITHOUT THE QUEEN DOWAGER'S COMMAND.

H...HEY YURI?

KISS

KISS

I, MYSELF, HAVE BEEN HAVING PLENTY OF FUN,

SO I WANT EVERYONE TO HAVE A GOOD TIME TOO.

THE PRINCESS MUST LOVE KAIL

SO MUCH THAT SHE SEES OTHER PRINCESSES AS OBSTACLES.

KISS

YOUR HIGH-NESS

WHO
IS SHE!?

WHICH PRINCESS IS IT!?

.....

Ba dump

Ba-dump

thump

PRINCESS CELT!

clank

swip

THE ONE WHO I REALLY WANT TO KILL MORE THAN THOSE FOUR IS YOU.

BACK AWAY FROM HIS HIGHNESS YLRI ISHTAR

AAAH!

PRINCESS CELT IS THE KILLER!?

PRINCESS CELT!?

.....

DON'T COME ANY CLOSER!

AAAAAH!

IF YOU GET ANY CLOSER, I'LL KILL HER!

PRINCESS ALEXANDRA!!

.....

Wap

wap

wap

I DIDN'T CHOOSE WHOM TO CONTROL.

I ONLY CAST A SPELL ON THE "BLACK WATER" SO THAT IT WOULD BE DELIVERED TO THE PERSON WHO HATED YURI THE MOST...

THE ONE WHO CALLED THE "BLACK WATER" WAS CELT HERSELF!!

EVERYONE, DON'T MOVE!

IF ANYONE MOVES, I'LL KILL HER!

AAAAH, LET GO OF ME!

I HAVE ALREADY KILLED 4 PEOPLE. ADDING ANOTHER ONE WOULDN'T CHANGE ANYTHING!!

STOP SCREAMING OR I'LL KILL YOU.

AAAAAAH!!

PRINCESS CELT KILLED THOSE 4 PRIN-CESSES!?

THE ONE WHO IS BEING CONTROLLED IS PRINCESS CELT!

YOUR HIGH-NESS

IF WE MAKE HER FLUSTERED, THE HOSTAGE WILL BE IN DANGER.

NOBODY MAKE A MOVE.

ANY MIS-STEPS MAY PROVOKE PRINCESS CELT.

IT'S UNBE-L EV-ABLE!

A PRINCESS FROM THE ROYAL FAMILY IS THE KILLER...

PRINCESS CELT REALLY KILLED THOSE 4 PRINCESSES?

IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING, PRINCESS ALEXANDRA MAY...

QUEEN DOWAGER NAKIA!!

QUEEN DOWAGER!

DON'T LET PRINCESS CELT KILL ANYMORE PEOPLE THAN THIS!

STOP MANIPULATING OTHER PEOPLE ALREADY!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

BUT KILLING FOUR PEOPLE IS REALLY ATROCIOUS.

QUEEN DOWAGER!

YOU HAD PRINCESS CELT DRINK THE "BLACK WATER."

DON'T PLAY DUMB!

WHY WOULD I DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

MANIPULATE...

HOWEVER,

PRINCESS CELT'S WISH IS QUITE NORMAL

EVER SINCE THE START OF OUR EXIS-TENCE,

IT HAS BEEN NATURAL FOR HUMAN BEING TO WISH FOR THE HIGHEST POSITION.

FOR A WOMAN, IT'S NORMAL FOR HER TO ASPIRE TO BE QUEEN.

QUEEN DOWAGER..

©

FOR ALL THEIR LIFE, THE LOWER CLASSES WOULD NEVER UNDERSTAND THIS.

SO THAT SHE WOULD BE ABLE TO BEND OTHERS' THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS AS SHE WISHES.

IT'S NORMAL FOR HER TO WISH TO HAVE ALL THE WEALTH AND GLORY OF THE WORLD IN HER HANDS. .

THIS WOMAN...

Startled

CELT,

LET GO OF PRINCESS ALEXANDRA.

LET ME BE BY YOUR SIDE!

THEN YOUR HIGHNESS MUST MAKE ME YOUR QUEEN.

AAAAAH!!

IF YOU WON'T, I'LL KILL THIS PRINCESS ALONG WITH MYSELF!

CELT!

DON'T STOP. FOLLOW HER WITH TOO MANY PEOPLE.

SLOWLY ENCIRCLE HER!

HELP ME!

WHAT, UNCLE IS HERE!?

YOUR HIGHNESS! PRINCESS CELT'S FATHER IS HERE!

SHUT UP!

OH... I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT MY DAUGHTER KILLED THOSE FOUR PRINCESSES...

YOUR HIGHNESS... THIS MUST BE A MISTAKE.

CELT MUST HAVE BEEN POSSESSED BY SOMETHING.

YOUR HIGHNESS!

YOUR HIGHNESS!

QUEEN DOWAGER, PLEASE HELP US.

PLEASE EXEMPT HER FROM BEING BEHEADED!

YOUR... YOUR HIGHNESS

YOUR HIGHNESS HAS THE ABILITY TO CONTROL THE WIND, RIGHT?

CAN YOU USE THAT ABILITY TO MAKE CELT REGAIN HER CONSCIOUSNESS!?

UNCLE

CELT HAS NOW GONE UP TO THE PALACE'S WALL

PRINCESS NAKIA

IT'S NOT GOOD TO USE DARK POWERS CASUALLY LIKE THAT.

THIS IS BECAUSE PEOPLE WILL ALWAYS OBEY AND FOLLOW PEOPLE'S HEARTS

UNCLE,

I DON'T WANT TO USE DARK POWERS TO GOVERN THE COUNTRY.

THE LESS WE WILL BE ABLE TO GRASP PEOPLE'S HEARTS.

THE MORE WE USE DARK ABILITIES TO INFLUENCE PEOPLE AND THINGS,

PEOPLE WILL NOT FOLLOW DARK POWERS

BUT THEY WILL FOLLOW YOUR HEART.

QUEEN HINTEE!

IN ANY CASE.

I WILL DEFINITELY PROTECT THE SAFETY OF BOTH PRINCESS CELT AND PRINCESS ALEXANDRA.

YOUR HIGHNESS

UNCLE, DON'T WORRY

KAIL"

THE ONLY SON OF THAT QUEEN HINTEE

PRINCESS CELT!

STOP THIS ALREADY! PLEASE LET THE HOSTAGE GO!

DON'T COME ANY CLOSER!

YOUR HIGH-NESS

PRINCESS YURI IS TRYING TO PERSUADE HER, BUT NO MATTER WHAT, PRINCESS CELT STILL...

HOW IS IT?

I DON'T WANT TO GO ON LIVING IF THE KING NO LONGER WANTS ME.

I'LL TAKE THIS PRINCESS TO DEATH WITH ME TOO!!

I UNDER-STAND, PRINCESS CELT

IF YOU WANT TO TAKE SOMEONE WITH YOU, WHY DON'T YOU TAKE ME INSTEAD?

LET PRINCESS ALEXANDRA GO.

WHAT!?

PLEASE TRUST ME WITH THIS!

YURI!?

RIGHT NOW, I AM THE PERSON WHO THE KING FAVORS THE MOST.

DIDN'T YOU ALSO SAY IT YOURSELF THAT...

THE ONE YOU REALLY WANT TO KILL IS ME?

()

()

PRIN-
CESS
YURI

OKAY

COME
THIS WAY
SLOWLY.

SHE IS
DIFFERENT
FROM
QUEEN
DOWAGER
NAKIA!

BUT
SHE TRULY
LOVES
KAIL...

THIS WOMAN
DOES NOT
WANT THE
QUEEN
POSITION.

HURRY
AND GO
TO THE
OTHER
SIDE.

YOU'RE
SAFE
NOW.

SIS...

I CAN'T LET HER USE THAT MATTER TO CONTROL OTHERS!

whup

SORRY, PRINCESS CELT...

AAH..

whoosh

SHE DROPPED THE KNIFE!

A...

AAGH

OPEN YOUR EYES AND WAKE UP ALREADY

PRIN-CESS CELT

YOU'RE A WOMAN WHO HIS HIGHNESS USED TO LOVE IN THE PAST

PRINCESS, BE STRONG!

A...

A...AAH!

!?

IF SHE SPEWS OUT THAT "BLACK WATER" ..

PRINCESS CELT!!

A...

ARGH

QUEEN DOWAGER!

HUFF

PRIN-CESS!?

RIGHT,

I'M GOING TO KILL YOU.

HUFF

YURI!!

SOV

PRIN-
CESS!?

AAAAAGH!

PRIN-
CESS
YURI!!

THE SERAGLIO
IS IN THE
HIGHEST SPOT
OF THE ROYAL
PALACE TOO!

fwip

YOUR
HIGH-
NESS!?

fwip

zaaa

SWISH

SWISH

SWISH

TWO

AAGH!!

ALLIGH!

AAAH!!

THE WIND IS BLASTING UP FROM THE VALLEY!

fwip

zzzak

fwip

zzzak

fwip

zzzak

fwip

zzzak

THE WIND IS SUPPORTING MY BODY!?

AAH?

sigh

KAIL!?

PRINCESS CELT !?

URGH...

fwish
fwish
fwish
SHE THREW UP THE "BLACK WATER"!?
UGH!!

YURI!

PRINCESS YURI!

PRINCESS CELT!

ARE YOU HURT?

PRINCESS CELT, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

AH...WHY AM I IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...?

UNN...

PRIN-
CESS
YURI!

PRINCESS
YURI!?
ARE YOU
ALRIGHT?

PRIN-
CESS
YURI!

YOUR
HIGHNESS,
SHE'S NOT
AROUND
HERE AT
ALL.

WHERE
IS
YURI?

YES, SIR.

SEARCH FOR HER! ENLARGE THE SEARCH AREA TO EVEN WIDER.

YURI!?

blink

UGH...

AH... I'M IN H...

PRINCESS YURI, WHERE ARE YOU!?

WHERE AM I?

HUH?

PLEASE BE QUIET.

gasp

PRINCESS YURI

WHAT... WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?

RUSAFA!?

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